IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A rotary shaft for rotation about an axis and carrying an eccentric, substantially circular section, radially extending flange, connected to the radially extending outer surface of ~~which~~ the flange is an annular housing affording a cavity defined in part by radially inner and radially outer coaxial cylindrical surfaces of the annular housing, the axis of which is offset from the axis of the shaft, the cavity accommodating an annular inertia mass, the radially inner and radially outer surfaces of the cavity ~~being opposed to~~ facing the radially inner and radially outer surfaces, respectively, of the inertia mass, whereby there are two pairs of ~~opposed~~ facing surfaces, one of the said pairs constituting bearing surfaces guiding relative rotation of the inertia mass and the housing about the axis of the coaxial cylindrical surfaces, the other of the said pairs being spaced apart to define an annular space accommodating a displaceable material, the inertia mass and the cavity having a dimension in the radial direction which has a maximum value at a first position opposite to the direction of eccentricity and decreases progressively in both circumferential directions to a second position offset by 180° from the first position and the inertia mass and the cavity having relative dimensions to allow the inertia mass limited movement in rotation with respect to the cavity.

2. (Original) A shaft as claimed in Claim 1 in which the displaceable material is a viscous liquid.

3. (Original) A shaft as claimed in Claim 2 in which the viscous liquid comprises a grease.

4. (Original) A shaft as claimed in Claim 1 in which the housing is closed by a cover plate extending in a radial plane.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Previously presented) A shaft as claimed in claim 1 further comprising: spring means acting on the inertia mass and biasing it towards a position in which the radial width of the space is constant.

9. (Previously presented) A shaft as claimed in claim 2 further comprising: spring means acting on the inertia mass and biasing it towards a position in which the radial width of the space is constant.

10. (Previously presented) A shaft as claimed in claim 3 further comprising: spring means acting on the inertia mass and biasing it towards a position in which the radial width of the space is constant.

11. (Previously presented) A shaft as claimed in claim 4 further comprising: spring means acting on the inertia mass and biasing it towards a position in which the radial width of the space is constant.

12. (Previously presented) A shaft as claimed in claim 1 wherein: the thickness in the axial direction of the portion of the housing opposite to the direction of eccentricity is greater than that of the eccentric flange.

13. (Previously presented) A shaft as claimed in claim 2 wherein: the thickness in the axial direction of the portion of the housing opposite to the direction of eccentricity is greater than that of the eccentric flange.

14. (Previously presented) A shaft as claimed in claim 3 wherein: the thickness in the axial direction of the portion of the housing opposite to the direction of eccentricity is greater than that of the eccentric flange.

15. (Previously presented) A shaft as claimed in claim 4 wherein: the thickness in the axial direction of the portion of the housing opposite to the direction of eccentricity is greater than that of the eccentric flange.

16. (Previously presented) A shaft as claimed in claim 8 wherein: the thickness in the axial direction of the portion of the housing opposite to the direction of eccentricity is greater than that of the eccentric flange.

17. (Previously presented) A shaft as claimed in claim 9 wherein: the thickness in the axial direction of the portion of the housing opposite to the direction of eccentricity is greater than that of the eccentric flange.

18. (Previously presented) A shaft as claimed in claim 10 wherein: the thickness in the axial direction of the portion of the housing opposite to the direction of eccentricity is greater than that of the eccentric flange.

19. (Previously presented) A shaft as claimed in claim 11 wherein: the thickness in the axial direction of the portion of the housing opposite to the direction of eccentricity is greater than that of the eccentric flange.

20. (Currently amended) An automotive crankshaft for rotation about an axis and carrying at least one pair of axially spaced, radially extending eccentric crankwebs, at least one of which has a circular cylindrical radially outer surface, the axis of which is offset from the axis of the crankshaft and connected to which is the inner surface of an annular member of resilient

elastomeric material, connected to the outer surface of which is the cylindrical inner surface of a annular inertia mass, the weight distribution of which counterbalances the eccentricity of the associated crankweb.